THE OLD MOULTON MANSION ON HIGHWAY 4/ DISAPPEARS: LANDMARK SINCE '77

The old Lee Homestead mansion, a landmark for more than three-quartors of a century, disappeared in just one day recently beneath the onslaught of fire and bulldozer. It made room for future highway construction.

The old Lee Mansion, was built by William Moulton a mile east of Keetly in 1877, it was razed in Aug. 1959. The big 14 room house was famous for its stout construction, its size, and the warmth of its hospitality.

The old house has tremendous history. Wm.Moulton was an Emigrant from England, and he had the King Midas touch--everything he touched prospered. He built the house in 1877 from sandstone brought from Lake Creek near by, and he built it well.

Two front bedrooms, for his wives Mary and Mary Ann, were separated by a big beautiful parlor. There were two big staircases leading to the upper story, where there were many more bed rooms. Two bathrooms, a huge pantry which was almost a refrigerator, and 3 full rooms and a vegetable cellar in the basement. Each wife had her own kitchen.

The floors were cedar, an inch and a half thick. In a recent exploration Mrs. Lee discovered 8 layers of floor covering beneath a rug in one room.

Mr. Moulton set up a complete spread to supply milk, butter, and milk butter, and meat for the boom mining town of Park City. There was a two-story milk-shed, with a pipe-line leading to the dairy room in the house, and another pipe-line leading back to the calf shed for skim milk. There was a big slaughter house, and an ice house, a well inside the barn-the layout was complete beyond imagination for those early days. This house became so famous in fact that the stage coach line from Heber City to Salt Lake City built a side road up against the hill, so that passengers could view both the back and front of the spread.

Mr. Moulton's business in Park City was fabulous. He carried milk in a spring wagon or sleigh, and went over the summit and down through Deer Valley into Park City. Ladies came out with their containers, which were filled with a dipper. He also took orders for delivery tomorrow for mutton, pork or veal, and dairy products.

Upon one occassion it is said that the daughty old merchant found the road impossible, and transferred his load of meat and milk to an ore car at the mouth of the Drain Tunnel and transported underground to the Daly West shaft. It was hauled through and into Park City at the Daly Judge tunnel, and there loaded onto a dray for delivery.

Orson H. Lee, who was a brother of Moulton's first wife, Mary, came as a youth to the ranch to work. Upon the death of his brother-in-law he purchased the place from his sister. He continued to run the ranch and as his sons grew up they filed on surrounding land to build up the acreage. After his death, his sons continued running the ranch. At one time there were four families living in the house, each with their one apartment. Mr. Lee, Sr. and his three sons and wives. It was a fourteen room house.

This was taken from a newspaper clipping, in the Coalville paper "The Bee" written at the time of the razing of the home. A colored picture of this home is available from Mrs. Ethel Moulton Watson 140 W. 2nd N. Heber, Utah

THE OLD MOULTON MANSION ON HIGHWAY 44 DISAPPEARS:

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Memory of Pioneer Honored on 100th Anniversary of Birth

WILLIAM J. HOOPER

Thursday, February 1, 1923, marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of William J. Hooper, a pioneer who entered this valley in quest of adventure, was converted to the gospel and spent his life in the upbuilding of the community. His family and a few friends met at the home of W. A. Brewster, 107 Lincoln street to do honor to his memory.

William J. Hooper was born in England, son of John and Sarah Baker Hooper. When he was nine years old, he with his father and family emigrated to America, arriving at Kingston, Canada. He apprenticed himself to a shoemaker and his youth and early manhood were spent in various of different kinds, working [illegible] other things as [illegible] driver of an [illegible] up his mind he wanted to go to Oregon. He was driving a freight wagon between Syracuse and Vandalia at the time and his employer knowing of his desire informed him that the government wanted teamsters to go to Utah with Johnston's army. He applied for and secured a position.

When the army was finally released from duty in the valley he remained. He liked the country, associated with its people, studied their religion, accepted its principles and was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1859.

He joined the militia in the early days and also the volunteer fire department. He was assistant engineer of the department, which position he held until the organization of the paid department in 1883, when he was made a call man.

When the Salt Lake theatre was opened he entered its employ there until his death. He acted as doorkeeper at the second balcony door, and later was also employed as night watchman and custodian of the building. He died in 1904.

He married a sister of Sarah Doutord wife of Wm Moulton, grandfather of Bertha Bowman

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